

There may be other ways to raise funds for education this year. There may not be. Senator Hefner is right, it's maybe not the time to raise taxes to fund education. And every...everybody has made some good points. Senator Coordsen is right. We have to look at the whole picture, the whole picture of education when we determine how much money we are going to spend on it. And Senator Pappas is right, the cost of living in Nebraska is not as great as the cost of living in Boulder, Colorado. But I don't think that's the issue. I think the issue is, as Senator Chambers says, I think the issue is one of hope and one of belief that this can be a new tomorrow in our state, that we can start now to begin a substantive, significant debate, not only in the area of economic development. I believe the debate we made...that we had in the area of economic development, contrary to what Senator Chambers said, was important because it was a debate that talked about belief and positive goals and positive aspirations of this state to bring new business...to bring new businesses here, to bring new high paying jobs to Nebraska. And I just would say that I hope that we advance this bill so that we can continue to discuss it and we can continue to talk about Nebraska being better than it is today in all areas, including education. I am just convinced that we are and can be, with the people we have here and all of our assets and attributes that we can be the best and we are...I strongly urge that we send this bill along, that we continue to debate it, that we continue to put it in our thought processes and that we do what is right and we start doing what's right today. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Moore, Senator Withem on deck.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, as I said when I spoke to the previous Ashford amendment, I really hate to stand here and sound like, you know, Senator Turbo, or whatever, but it all comes down to, you know, what exactly are we talking about here? If you vote for this, you are voting for a tax increase of some sort. And who is going to pay? Who is going to pay for this? We have spent days of debate debating legislation that will give tax breaks to, quite frankly, the more well-to-do in the state. Now, who is going to pay for this? If you vote for this, it's going to be the middle income people. The middle income people are the ones who are going to pick up the tab. Now, I guess that's not right in itself and that's a bigger problem we're dealing with as a whole though I do believe we need to do some of the things in a variety...in a variety of proposals in front of us. But it's quite